
DIGEST

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Cox

HB No. 155

Abstract: Provides relative to school emergency plans and to the definition, preparation, content, review, revision, and provision of copies thereof; requires in-service training, applicable to all public schools, including charter schools.

Definition

Present law defines a "crisis management and response plan" as a plan to:

- (1) Address school safety and the incidence of violence, at schools, on school buses, and at school-related activities.
- (2) Respond effectively to such incidents.
- (3) Ensure that every student, teacher, and school employee has access to a safe, secure, and orderly school that is conducive to learning.

Present law provides that these plans shall also address the management of any other emergency situation. Proposed law specifically adds shootings to the incidences of violence a plan shall address and changes the terminology from "crisis management and response plan" to "school safety, security, and crisis preparedness, prevention, response, and after action management and review plan".

Plan preparation

Present law requires each public school principal to prepare a plan and to consider and include, where appropriate, input from students and their parents, teachers and other school employees, community leaders, local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials.

Proposed law requires the principal to prepare the plan jointly with the local school superintendent and with – not just consider and include input from – such officials. Requires considering and including input from teachers and other school employees and authorizes the consideration and inclusion of input from students, their parents, and community leaders.

Proposed law adds that if a school has a resource officer or Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor, he shall join the principal, such officials, and the local school superintendent in

preparing the plan and participate in plan review and revision.

Plan content

Present law requires the plan to detail the roles and responsibilities of each school employee and the relevant coordination agreements, services, and security measures of a school in the event of a violent incident or emergency situation.

Proposed law additionally requires that the plan:

- (1) Focus on preventing loss of life and injury.
- (2) Detail the specific roles and responsibilities of local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials.
- (3) Include contingencies based upon different scenarios of varying threat levels.

Present law authorizes the plan to include provision for encouraging peer helper programs and identifying students who may have experienced rejection or other traumatic life events. Proposed law requires rather than authorizes this and also requires the plan to provide for student counseling.

Plan review, revision, and approval

Present law requires each public school to review the plan annually. Proposed law specifically requires each principal jointly with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials and the local school superintendent to review the plan annually and following any shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation. Further requires each plan to be revised for maximum effectiveness every three years at a minimum but authorizes further revision as these individuals deem necessary.

Present law requires each school to submit the plan and resubmit any revised plan to the local school board for approval. Proposed law retains present law.

Providing training on and distributing copies of the plan

Proposed law requires each principal to provide:

- (1) In-service training each school year for all school employees pertaining to the plan; authorizes the principal to involve local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials in the training.
- (2) A copy of the plan to (a) the president of the local school board, (b) the local school superintendent, and (c) the local police chief or sheriff, as applicable, as well as the local fire chief, each of whom shall be responsible for keeping a readily accessible copy of the

plan in his respective office.

(Amends R.S. 17:416.16(A) and (C); Adds R.S. 17:416.16(D)-(F) and 3996(B)(33))